

*MICROPHIOPHOLIS*, REPLACEMENT NAME FOR  
*MICROPHOLIS* THOMAS, 1966  
(OPHIUROIDEA: AMPHIURIDAE), *NON* HUXLEY,  
1859 (AMPHIBIA: DISSOROPHIDAE)

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*Abstract.*—The extant ophiuroid genus *Micropholis* Thomas, 1966, is a junior homonym of the fossil amphibian genus *Micropholis* Huxley, 1859. The replacement name *Microphiopholis* is herein proposed for the six species of brittle star formerly assigned to *Micropholis* Thomas, 1966.

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In his revision of the amphiuroid genus *Amphipholis* Ljungman, 1867, Thomas (1966) established the new genus *Micropholis* for the type-species *Ophiolepis atra* Stimpson, 1852, and five other species of brittle star formerly assigned to *Amphipholis*. *Micropholis* was distinguished from *Amphipholis* (restricted) and *Axiognathus* Thomas, 1966 (ex *Amphipholis*), by the presence of much finer scales on its disc and by having perforated arm vertebrae. *Micropholis* has since been accepted by several authors (Tommasi 1970, 1971; Singletary 1971, 1980; Singletary and Moore 1974; Wardle et al. 1975; Camargo 1982; Clements and Stancyk 1984).

More than a century earlier, the generic name *Micropholis* was used by Huxley (1859) for a labyrinthodont amphibian (*M. stowii* Huxley, 1859) from the Lower Triassic of South Africa. The genus was named for the presence of small, polygonal, dermal, gular scutes.

*Micropholis* Thomas, 1966, is a junior homonym of *Micropholis* Huxley, 1859. In accordance with ICZN Art. 60, a replacement name for the ophiuroid is herein proposed.

Class Ophiuroidea Gray, 1840

Order Ophiurida Müller and Troschel, 1840

Family Amphiuroidae Ljungman, 1867

*Microphiopholis* nom. nov. pro *Micropholis* Thomas, 1966 (preoccupied)

*Type-species.*—*Ophiolepis atra* Stimpson, 1852, by original designation of Thomas (1966). A presumed syntype (MCZ 1438) consists of arm fragments and the disc integument; the oral frame is missing.

*Etymology.*—*Microphiopholis* is of feminine gender, derived from the original name.

*Distribution.*—*Microphiopholis* presently includes six species, of which three are western Atlantic and three eastern Pacific. Based on synonymies, collection data, and notes in Clark (1915), Nielsen (1932), Parslow and Clark (1963), Thomas (1965), Tommasi (1970), and Camargo (1982), the species have the following distribution: *M. atra*, Virginia to São Paulo, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea; *M. gracillima* (Stimpson, 1852), as for *M. atra* and including Bermuda; *M. subtilis*

(Ljungman, 1867), Puerto Rico (?), São Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro; *M. geminata* (Le Conte, 1851) and *M. platydisca* (Nielsen, 1932), Gulf of Panama; *M. punctata* (Lütken, 1856), Puntarenas, Costa Rica.

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